

learn to perform



a great resource on the doorstep of potential performers of all ages, **the irish academy of performing arts** is well worth some investigation. | ms gunning with the details...

The Irish Academy of Performing Arts, founded in Limerick in February 2005, has become one of Ireland's leading performing arts establishments, offering a wide range of afternoon and evening classes for all ages in Music & Performance, Dance, Stage & Drama, Leisure, and Art.

Ideally located at Mungret College on the outskirts of Limerick City, the Academy is set away from inner city traffic and noise, with plenty of free parking available. The 2 million euro facilities in the Academy are second to none. Each dance studio has sprung floors, ballet barres and mirroring; all music rooms are fitted with modern, up-to-date equipment.

The Academy maintains a strong ethos of encouragement and learning providing experienced and motivated professionals. Courses cater for both adults and children, from the beginner to the advanced student. The study of techniques can start as early as 4 years of age with no limit for the mature learner.

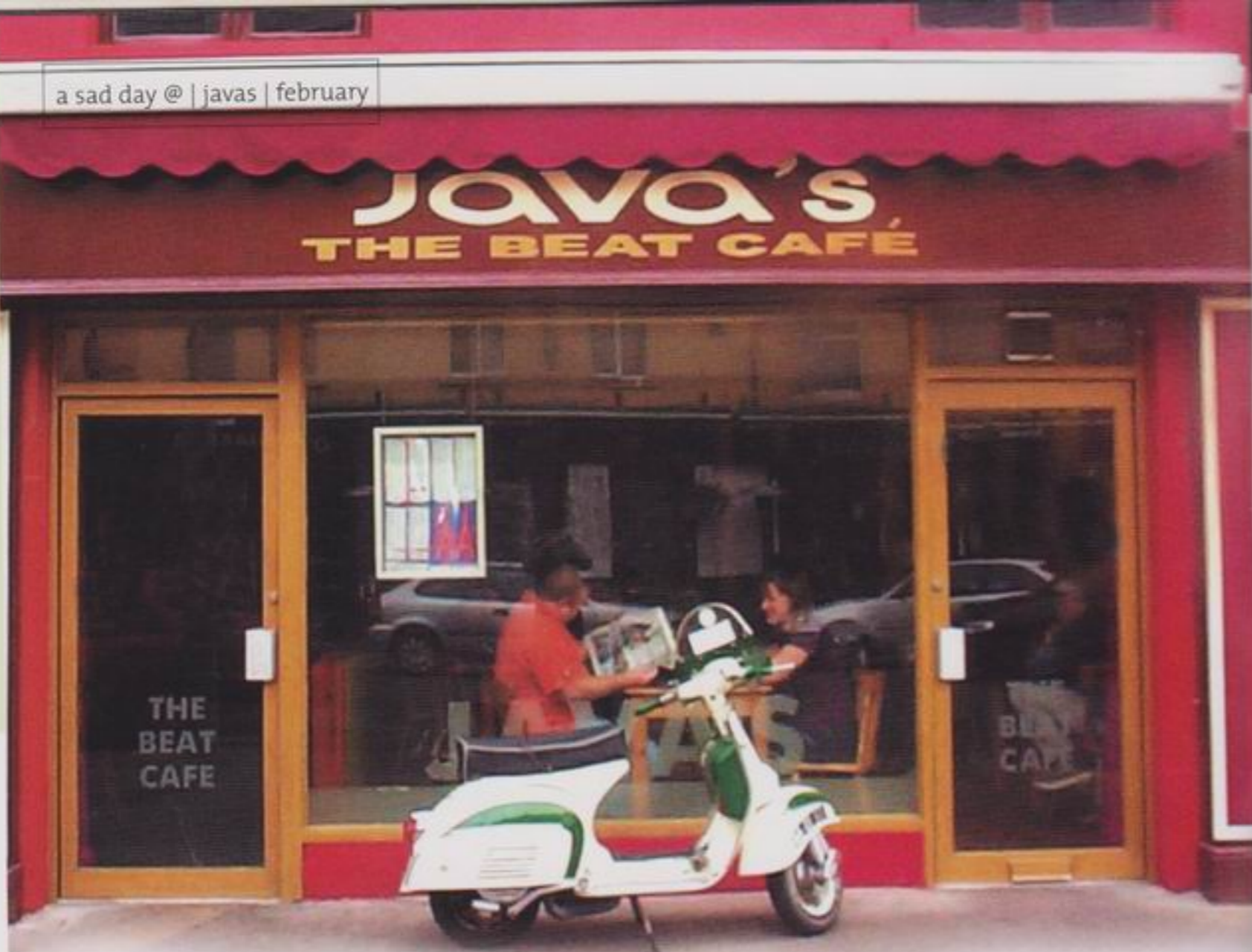
Whether an amateur or professional, the Academy provides an array of specialist courses for adults. Music classes are a popular choice, providing adults with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument purely for fun or to gain qualifications from internationally recognised examination boards.

Tuition in many instruments is offered to all ages, including Piano, Keyboard, Violin, Guitar, Drums, and the often neglected instrument, the Voice! Traditional Irish Music is also taught on many instruments such as the Fiddle, Tin Whistle, Recorder, Flute, and Banjo. As an added bonus a weekly Music Theory class is included with every individual lesson.

Dance and Leisure classes are a more fun and social way to stay in shape than hitting the gym. It's never too late to implement those New Year's Resolutions, and with Hip-Hop, Ballet, Salsa, Jazz, Yoga, and Strength & Flex classes to choose from (and many more!), there's something for everybody.

The unique combination of classes offered in The Irish Academy of Performing Arts, all conveniently housed under one roof, and in beautiful surroundings, makes the institution an important and vibrant centre for learning in the Limerick area.

bookings are currently being taken for the new term starting in february. contact 061-424770 or info@europeanacademy.ie for further details.



black coffee day

an institution, a real one, comes to an end this month when **javas** closes its doors as the block it's graced for over a decade goes under the developers knife. not before releasing 'the soundtrack' though | ms zoe laments the latte loss

1995 – For all the locals among you, dear readers, cast your mind's eye back to the Limerick of 1997. Pretty bleak picture isn't it? As a native, I always savour a secret chuckle when people down Limerick. Especially these days. You know the usual whinings, maybe not so much of late with the venerated and long overdue redevelopment rampage, "there's not enough ...(insert relevant phrase here – clubs, shops, pubs, general places to go, live, be etc etc) in this town".

Brother, you don't know the half of it. Without sounding off like a rocking chaired grandmama, Limerick today is New York (well a lively neighbourhood in Brooklyn at least) compared to Limerick pre-1995. Which is why Java's closing in early February (for redevelopment no less, oh the irony) has engendered such an emotional response among the populace in general and the former/present staff and loyal patrons in particular.

Java's arrival signalled the start of something in this town. It was Limerick's first coffee shop coffee shop. Sure, we had all tasted Bewleys' percolated offerings, but Java's opened its doors and offered us Italian and African blends, a choice no less, from a big steaming mammoth proper coffee machine. There were muffins and couches and bagels and a hanging chair and feta cheese and candles and nice cake and a general boho ambience with a gaggle of urban hipsters behind the counter. You heard music you recognised on the soundsystem and music you didn't know but wanted to find out more about and the place stayed open 24 hours. For a while anyway, Java's may have been ahead of the citizens at this time but we caught up.

My first job, proper in-town one anyway, was the Friday and Saturday 8- closing run in Java's. I was seventeen and green as a daffodil shoot in early February. What a great job it was. Who looks forward to working every weekend? I did at the time, and with a crew of great people, Java's was more than a job, it was a laugh. Up to your eyeballs in dishes while the upstairs is rammed with revellers freshly minted from a nightclub and a queue of 30 more outside the door. Even the queue looked like fun. It was a beautiful kind of bedlam. I worked through my leaving cert and then college

in Java's. All in all I floated in and out as a worker for about six years. Coming back after a summer away and always managing to get a night or two behind the counter or in the kitchen. Cheers Duncan! It's that kind of place, kind of hard to leave really.

Java's established itself as a Limerick landmark. Everyone found their way there eventually. The hours may not have extended to 3am anymore but Java's was still an open house. For the musicians who launched new albums upstairs, to the artists whose latest exhibitions graced the walls, to the suits on downtime from the office, the ladies lunching on a light salad, the school kids getting deep in the corner, tourists on tour and individuals sitting solo with a decent book and a milky mocha. There is no Java's crowd or click, there's just customers who appreciate a good coffee or Ceylon tea.

And a musically gifted line of staff who frothed their milk over the past 10 years. In remembrance of good times past, great staff, and lively lovely customers, Duncan and his crew have come together and pooled their creative offerings to cut "The Soundtrack" of Java's. This worthy memento features Amoured Bear, who did his two year stint before returning to his native Cork to recover, stalwart regular Ger Lane and his band Vener, quiet girl Cara Newman, who's vocal stylings were a secret during her four year tenure and a sweet surprise for her co-workers and many more including the wonderful Benoit, Jack Sabuska, Ger O'Donnell, and poet in residence John Carmody. "Down in the River to Pray" is a team effort of staff and customers led by former manager Paul Quinn.

This is no shoddy sentimental offering but a quality collection of new music written, recorded and performed by workers or regulars in this Limerick institution. What a great last hurrah. "Java's – The Soundtrack" is simply put, a great album. Music is more than memories, it's a living loving thing. This music will keep what was most precious about Java's, its spirit, alive long after the doors close.

Get your's from January 29th in Empire Music, Java's and all good music stores. And make sure to pop in and say so long. May the beat go on.